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Asides

The Acid Test

Sen. Levin of Michigan has written President Reagan urging that CIA Director William J. Casey be required to put his securities holdings in a blind trust to avoid any appearance of impropriety in his stock dealings. Mr. Casey's latest financial disclosure form had revealed that his account, actually handled by a financial adviser, saw a lot of action last year. His critics weren't placated much by a statement from the adviser, released through the CIA, that said Mr. Casey had never provided any information or special analyses that could be used in making investment decisions.

Of course, Sen. Levin's concerns about using public office for private gain are justified, so much so that we would like to see them applied to legislators as well as bureaucrats. On the other hand, a case could be made that the director of the CIA, of all federal officials, should not only be allowed to trade securities on the basis of the information he has, but actually be required to do so. In the vernacular, it's called putting your money where your mouth is.